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Inspection Envelope

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2 Claims

This invention relates to envelopes. More particularly it relates to such envelopes which may be opened for postal inspection.

A number of envelopes for the transportation of matter that is subject to postal inspection have been proposed. Many of these types of envelopes have had flaps which have been held down by metal or paper clips, or buttons. These involve heavy expense in manufacture and handling and trouble and annoyances in their use. Other types of envelopes involve the use of a pair of divided but adjacent flaps only one of which is gummed. These types suffered the disadvantage that, both prior to and after postal inspection, the material within the envelope could conceivably fall out of the envelope.

The present invention provides an inspection envelope wherein the danger of accidental loss of material contained therein is minimized. By the present invention there is provided an envelope for the mailing of matter subject to official inspection, said envelope having an opening throughout one of its edges, a flap, connected with a wall of said envelope at one end of the said opening, a major portion of said flap having an adhesive thereon for securing it to the opposite wall of the envelope to restrain accidental escape of its contents, the minor portion of said flap being free of adhesive, said major portion of said flap being separable from said minor portion of said flap along a weakened line; whereby mailable matter substantially filling said envelope is primarily and, before the adhesion of said flap, easily and quickly insertible into said envelope without flexion, and, on severing of said major portion of said flap from said minor portion of said flap, being removable from said envelope by flexion for official inspection, said minor portion of said flap, upon severing, being freely adapted for insertion into, and removal from, said envelope. Preferably, the weakened portion of the closure flap is a perforated line, although other weakened lines, such as broken spaced cuts may be used.

In drawings which illustrate embodiments of the present invention—Fig. 1 is a top plan view of one embodiment of a paper blank adapted to be folded to form the inspection envelope of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of an envelope according to the present invention, formed from the blank of Fig. 1, with its flap open;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the envelope of Fig. 2 with its flap closed;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of another embodiment of a paper blank adapted to be folded to form the inspection envelope of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a partially assembled envelope formed from the blank of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a top plan view of an envelope accord-

ing to the present invention, formed from the blank of Fig. 4, with its flap open, and;

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of the envelope of Fig. 6 with its flap closed.

One embodiment of an envelope according to the present invention may be formed of a paper blank such as shown in top plan view in Fig. 1. The blank consists of a main front panel 10 to which, on one side thereof, a primary back panel 11 is connected along a fold line 18 and to which, on the other side thereof, a secondary back panel 12 is connected along a fold line 20. Secondary back panel 12 is provided with a vertical portion 15 which is coated on one face with a suitable adhesive. At the bottom of panel 10 is an assembly flap 13 which is coated on one face thereof with a suitable adhesive connected thereto along a fold line 22, while at the top of panel 10 is a closure flap 14, connected thereto along a fold line 24.

Closure flap 14 is formed of two portions, an adhesive-bearing main portion 16 and a minor portion 17, separated from one another by perforations 25.

To assemble the envelope, panel 11 is folded along line 18 so that it rests in face-to-face contact with a portion of panel 10, the edge 19 of panel 11 assuming the position shown by broken lines in Fig. 2. Panel 12 is then folded along fold line 20 so that the major portion lies in face-to-face contact with a portion of panel 10 and so that its adhesive-bearing portion 15 overlaps a portion 28 of panel 11. The panels 11 and 12 are then joined together by means of the adhesive-bearing portion 15, so that edge 21 of panel 12 lies in the position shown in Fig. 2. This results in the formation of a flattened tube.

The bottom of the flattened tube is then closed, and an envelope is formed by folding flap 13 along fold line 22 so that its adhesive-bearing face is in face-to-face contact with the bottom portions 29 and 30 of panels 11 and 12 respectively. The flap 13 is then adhered in that position.

In use, the envelope is loaded with its contents, and closure flap 16 is folded down along fold line 24, so that its adhesive-bearing face 16 contacts the upper portions 31 and 32 of panels 11 and 12 respectively. The flap is sealed in that position. For postal inspection, a corner 26 of unsealed flap portion 17 is raised, and flap portion 17 is separated from flap portion 16 along perforated line 25. This permits the contents of the envelope to be examined. When the examination is completed, flap portion 17 may be tucked into the envelope. The contents are then more surely retained in the inspection envelope, because the major portion of the closure flap is still sealed.

In order to indicate that the envelope may be opened for postal inspection, panel 11 is provided with a suitable legend 27, which may read, for example, "Open for postal inspection".

In the embodiment shown in Figures 4-7, the envelope according to the present invention may be formed of a paper blank such as shown in top plan view in Figure 4. The blank consists of a main front panel 10 to which on the bottom thereof a back panel 13 is connected along a fold line 22. On one side of main front panels 10 is a primary assembly flap 11 connected thereto along fold line 18, and on the other side thereof, is

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secondary assembly flap 12 connected thereto along a fold line 20. Each of the primary assembly flap 11 and secondary assembly flap 12 is provided with a coating 15 on one face of a suitable adhesive. At the top of panel 10 is a closure flap 14, connected thereto along a fold line 24. Closure flap 14 is formed of two portions, an adhesive-bearing main portion 16 and a minor portion 17, the portions 16 and 17 being separated from one another by perforations 25.

To assemble the envelope, flap 11 is folded along fold line 18 so that it rests in face-to-face contact with a portion of panel 10, the edge 19 of flap 11 assuming the position shown in Fig. 5 and the adhesive bearing portion 15 being face up. Flap 12 is then folded along fold line 20 so it rests in face-to-face contact with a portion of panel 10 the edge 21 of flap 12 assuming the position shown in Fig. 5, and so that its adhesive-bearing portion 15 is face up. Back panel 13 is then folded along line 22 so that it rests on adhesive-bearing portions 15 of assembly flaps 11 and 12, and an envelope is formed by adhering back panel 13 to the adhesive-bearing portions 15 of assembly flaps 11 and 12, as shown in Fig. 6.

In use, the envelope is loaded with its contents and closure flap 16 is folded down along line 24, so that its adhesive-bearing face 16 contacts the upper portion of back panel 13. The flap is sealed in that position. For postal inspection, a corner 26 of unsealed flap portion 17 is raised, and flap portion 17 is separated from flap portion 16 along perforated line 25. This permits the contents of the envelope to be examined. When the examination is completed, flap portion 17 may be tucked

into the envelope. The contents are then more surely retained in the inspection envelope, because the major portion of the closure flap is still sealed.

In order to indicate that the envelope may be opened for postal inspection, back panel 13 is provided with a suitable legend 27, which may read, for example, "Open for postal inspection".

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive porperty or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An envelope for the mailing of matter subject to official inspection, said envelope having an opening throughout one of its edges, a flap, connected with a wall of said envelope at one end of the said opening, a major portion of said flap having an adhesive thereon for securing it to the opposite wall of the envelope to restrain accidental escape of its contents, the minor portion of said flap being free of adhesive, said major portion of said flap being separable from said minor portion of said flap along a weakened line; whereby mailable matter substantially filling said envelope is primarily and, before the adhesion of said flap, easily and quickly insertible into said envelope without flexion, and, on severing of said major portion of said flap from said minor portion of said flap, being removable from said envelope by flexion for official inspection, said minor portion of said flap, upon severing, being freely adapted for insertion into, and removal from said envelope.

2. The envelope of claim 1 wherein said weakened line on said flap is a perforated line.

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FIG. 1.

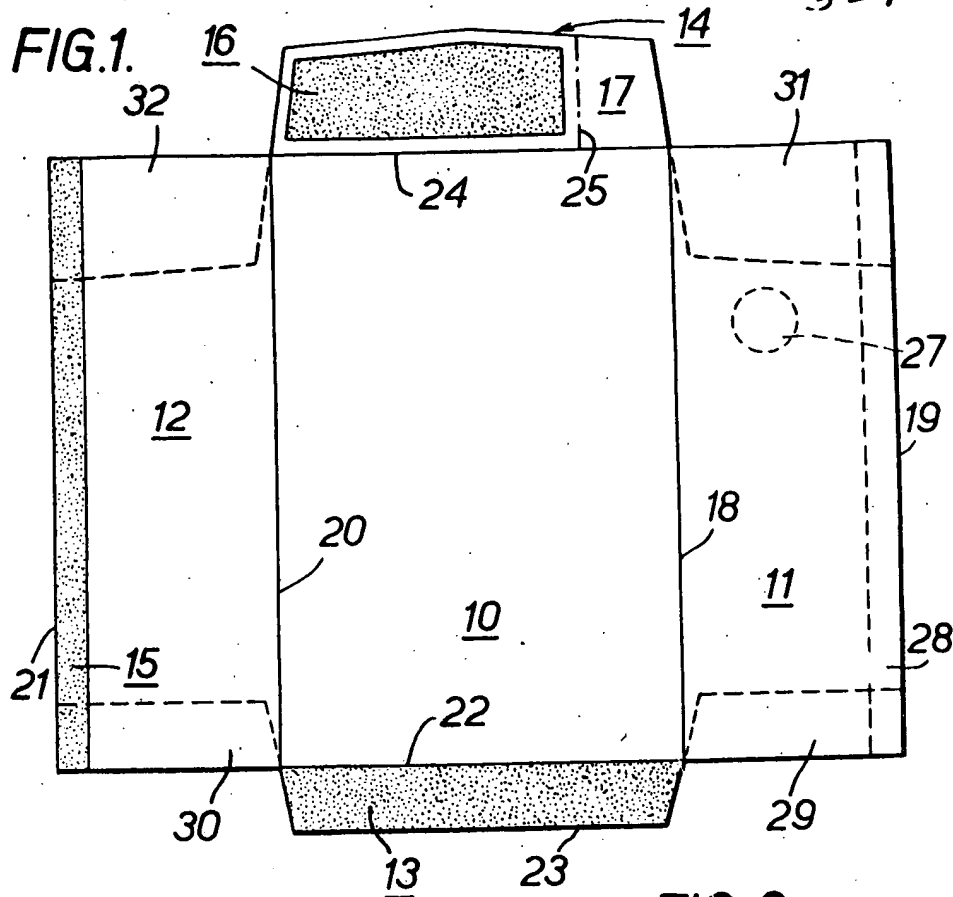


FIG. 2.

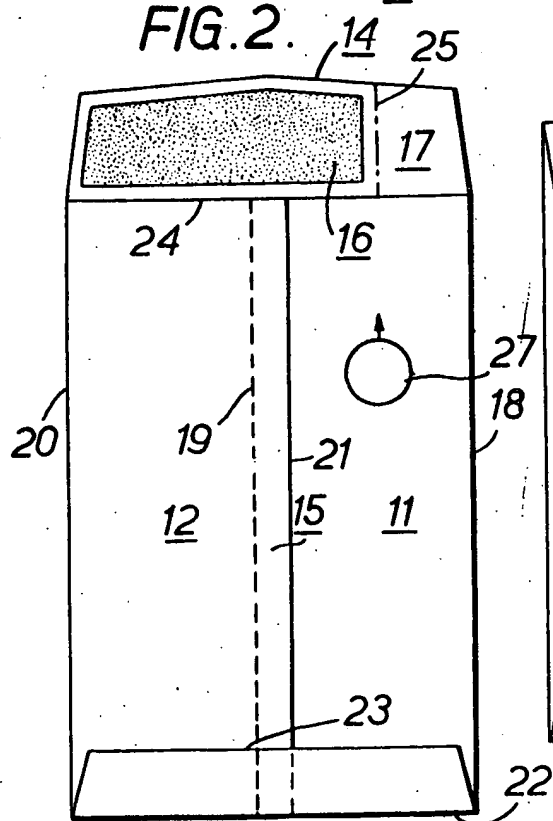


FIG. 3.

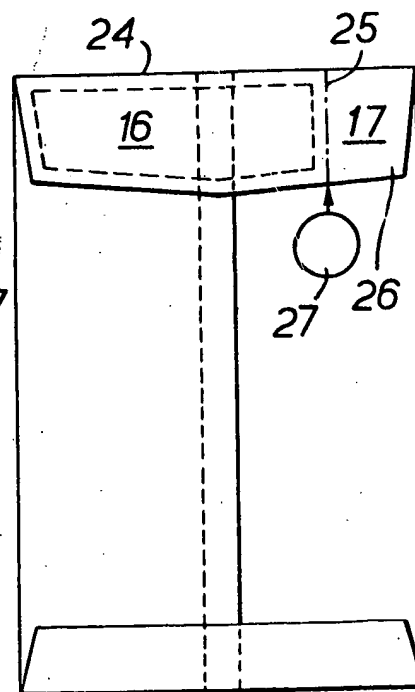


FIG. 4.

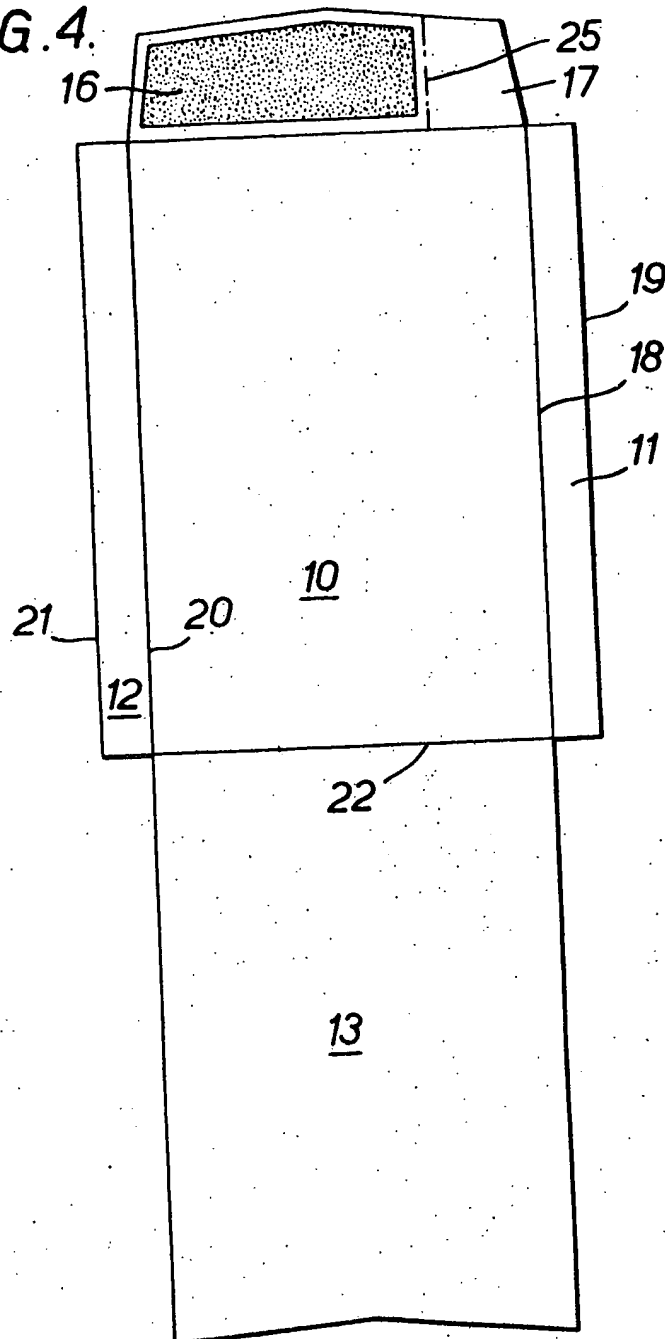


FIG. 5.

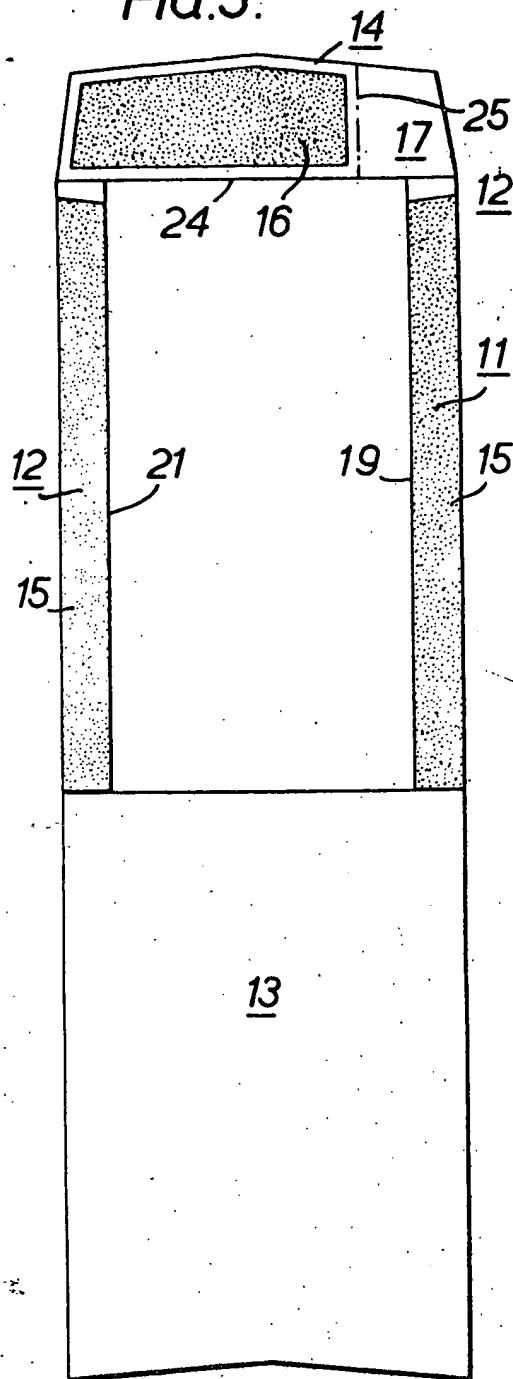


FIG. 6.

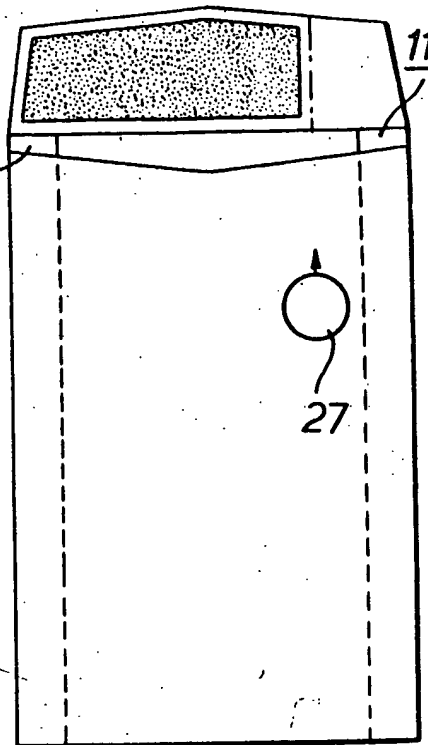


FIG. 7.

